

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments in reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendments, this application will contain claims 54-60 and 62 pending and under consideration. It is believed that the above amendments and the following remarks address and remove all outstanding rejections in the application. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested.

Claims 54-60 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 54-60 and 62 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiners Leavitt and Woitach for the courtesy of the telephonic interview dated February 1, 2008. In the interview, these two rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 were discussed. As discussed, the bonding techniques recited in claims 54-60 and 62 are known to those skilled in the art, such that those skilled in the art would understand from the specification of the present application that the applicants had possession of

the claimed invention, and would be fully enabled to practice the claimed scope of the invention without undue experimentation. The indication in the Interview Summary mailed on February 13, 2008, that the two above-noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 were overcome and would be withdrawn is acknowledged with appreciation.

It is believed that the remainder of the rejections of record are removed from issue without admission by the cancellation of claims 36-53 and 63-65. In particular, those rejections are:

1. The rejection of claims 36-44 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Voytik-Harbin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,444,229) in view of Stinson et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0111149);

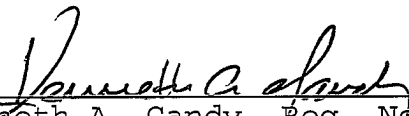
2. The rejection of claims 45-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over any of Kropp (Urology, 1995), Whitson (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,575) and Bonadio (U.S. Patent No. 5,942,496) in view of Stinson et al.

3. The rejection of claims 45-53 and 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over any of Badylak et al. (WO 96/24461), Badylak 2 (WO 96/25179), Cook et al., (WO 98/22158), Fearnot (U.S. Patent No. 6,358,284), Badylak 3

(U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0078076) in view of Stinson
et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration and allowance of this application containing
claims 54-60 and 62 are requested. The Examiner is invited to
telephone the undersigned attorney if any issue remains prior
to allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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